

SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR ACQUIRING IMAGES FROM IMAGING DEVICES

Abstract of the Disclosure

5 A system and associated method for acquiring images from various imaging devices and inserting these acquired images into application program documents. The system includes an interface module, a source manager module, and a source module, the latter two supporting the TWAIN communication specification. The interface module allows word processing applications, spreadsheet applications, presentation design applications, and other types of applications to be provided the capability for easily inserting images into documents that are created by such applications. An application program interface (API) is provided with an program application that enables the application program to acquire images from any TWAIN compliant image acquisition device. The method defines a process for automatically capturing and inserting an image with minimal user input, and enables a user to 15 customize image capture parameters when acquiring an image, if desired. The interface module also provides several image enhancement functions, including color correction, brightness/contrast correction, automatic cropping, and image compression, which are again implemented with minimal user interaction, thereby greatly simplifying the task of inserting an image into a document. There is no need to scan an image and save it in a file that persists after the application program is no longer running. Instead, the image is inserted directly into the document, in a compressed format. However, for image application devices that do not support autoscanning in this manner, or if the user prefers more control, the API enables the user interface for the selected image acquisition source to be executed. 20

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